Appeal By Andhra Pradesh Against Taking up the Upper Tunga Project

922. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has appealed against the Karnataka Government from taking up the proposed Upper Tunga Project, thus reducing inflows into the parched districts of Rayalaseema; and

(b) the steps taken to safeguard the interest of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged Union Government to review sanctions/clearance granted to Upper Tunga and other porjects of Krishna basin in Karnataka and also restraining the letter from proceeding with their construction. However, the Union Government has not given investment clearance to Upper Tunga Project.

Depletion of Ground Water

923. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to find out the reasons of the growing depletion of ground water;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to overcome the problem of ground water depletion; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Steps taken by the Union Government to check the decline in ground water level includes:

(i) Circulation of a 'Model Bill' to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of gound water development.

(ii) Circulation of a Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.

(iii) Constitution of Central ground Water Board as an Authority for the regulation and control of ground water management and development.

(iv) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme of 'Studies in Recharge of Ground Water' by Central Ground Water Board in Maharashtra, Karnataka, NCT of Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh in coordination with concerned State Governments.

Interim Award of Cauvery Tribunal

924. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what were the salient features of the Interim Award of Cauvery Tribunal;

(b) to what extent the Award has been followed/implemented by concerned parties;

(c) whether an all party delegation under the stewardship of Shri J.H. Patel, Karnataka, Chief Minister met Prime Minister and him;

(d) if so, the details of suggestion put forth by such delegation;

(e) whether similar delegation from Tamil Nadu had also given its suggestion in recent past; and

(f) if so, the remedial steps taken to settle the dispute at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) As per the Interim order dated 25.6.91 of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) the State of Karnataka is to make available 205 TMC of water in Tamil Nadu's Mettur reservoir in a year